



Assessment Notes...

From the Standards and Assessment Division

July 11, 2002

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

2002 STAR Results

Districts began receiving SABE/2 results the first week of June, and deliveries to all districts should be completed by the end of July.

Districts will begin receiving California Standards Test and Stanford 9 results the week of July 22 and most districts should receive all results by the end of August. Districts that are continuing to test during July and August will receive reports by the end of September or within five weeks after completing all edit checks.

Districts are required by state law to distribute reports to parents within 20 working days of when the district receives them.

State law requires that the Internet STAR reports for schools, districts, counties, and the state be posted each year on August 15. The reports should be available to the public by 10 a.m. on August 15 at <http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2020/>. The Department will provide secure access information to district superintendents, providing an opportunity to review their district's data before the site is opened to the public.

Comparing California Standards Test Results

Beginning with the 2002 California Standards Test (CST) results all CST reports except for high school integrated science will be reported as scaled scores and performance levels. The lowest score for the basic level has been set at 300 and the lowest score for proficient at 350, but the scaled scores are specific to each grade and content area and cannot be used to compare results across grades or content areas.

The scaled scores adjust for differences in the difficulty of the tests from year-to-year so that results can be compared across years. For example, scaled scores for Grade 4 math cannot be compared to scores for Grade 4 language arts (across content areas). Scaled scores for math at Grade 4 also cannot be compared with scores for Grade 5 math (across grades). **The scaled scores are designed to serve the needs of California's accountability system, allowing for accurate comparisons of scores in the same content area and same grade level from year-to-year** (identifying growth in achievement over time).

New and Updated Resource Materials

The following new or updated materials have been posted on the STAR web site:

- A revised *Teacher Guide for the California Writing Standards Tests at Grade 4 and 7* is now available. The revised guide includes sample writing tasks and sample student papers at each score point for grade 4 response to literature, narrative, and summary of information and for grade 7 response to literature, summary of information, narrative, and persuasive writing. Teachers may use any information in the guide with their students.
- *Reporting 2002 STAR Results to Parents/Guardians* updates the information in the 2001 publication. This new document includes samples of the new STAR Performance Reports

This publication is produced by:
Standards and Assessment Division
California Department of Education
Phil Spears, Division Director

for parents that include scaled scores, performance levels, and component scores for all California Standards Tests except for the four high school integrated science tests. To access this publication go to www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/ and click on “Program Resources,” then click on “Information and Assistance Packets,” and finally click on “2002 Reporting.” The document is posted in its entirety or in four sections for the ease of most users.

- Microsoft Word files of the sample school newsletter and principal letters to parents/guardians are also posted in the “2002 Reporting” section. Principals and other staff members preparing parent/guardian communication materials may modify these documents to meet their local needs.
- Spanish translations of the 2002 STAR Performance (Parent) Report for grades 4, 7, and 9 are posted at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/ under “Recursos en Español.”

2003 STAR Program

The Department is currently finalizing the Educational Testing Service (ETS) contract for the 2003 – 2005 test administrations. At its June 26 meeting the State Board of Education voted to:

- Administer only the *California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey* (CAT/6 Survey), which is the short form of the test.
The following CAT/6 survey tests will be administered beginning in spring 2003—reading/language and mathematics (grades 2 – 11), spelling (grades 2 – 8), and science (grades 9 – 11).
- Administer stand-alone Grade-2 through –11 California English Language Arts Standards Tests beginning in spring 2003. The grade 2 and 3 tests will include 65 items each and the grade 4 – 11 tests will include 75 items. The Board had previously voted to administer stand-alone CST mathematics tests in grades 2 – 7 beginning in spring 2003. The term “stand-alone” is used to mean that these tests will include only items written specifically for California. No norm-referenced CAT/6 items will be used to produce the standards-based CST scores.

There are several important changes in the STAR Program that are included in the new scope of work just approved by the State Board of Education.

- Releasing a large set of test items that can be used to inform teachers, students, and parents.
- Rotating the standards that will be assessed to ensure that all standards are covered over time.
- Including foundational items on the tests to indicate the progress of low-performing students towards meeting the standards. These items are designed to assess the fundamental skills necessary for success on the grade-level standards.

All these changes will improve the quality and usefulness of student test results.

2003 STAR Integrated Science

The State Board of Education (SBE) postponed taking action regarding the approval of the revised integrated science blueprints. The SBE recognized the effort the California Science Teachers Association (CSTA), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the Integrated Science Panel (ISP) has made in the development of the proposed integrated science test format and blueprints. The SBE appreciated the level of consensus that has been reached thus far, but requested additional evidence of consensus from the additional districts within California.

Based on the Board’s discussion, the CDE is directing that the Educational Testing Services begin work on the integrated science tests using the proposed blueprints. School districts can and are encouraged to use the proposed blueprints in the development of integrated courses and curriculum for the 2002-2003 school year.

The proposed integrated science test format and blueprints can be obtained by contacting:

Diane Hernandez
Science Consultant
dhernand@cde.ca.gov
(916) 651-8624

For more information about STAR or other state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), at (916) 657-4964 (fax), at STAR@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), or at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/> (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.